## Fiction Titles -- Evening Book Group 2022 Ballot



### This is how it always is

by Laurie Frankel

Fiction. A family reshapes their ideas about family, love, and loyalty when youngest son Claude reveals increasingly determined preferences for girls' clothing and accessories and refuses to stay silent. (2017, 327 pages)



### Hamnet: a novel of the plague

by Maggie O'Farrell

Historical Fiction. "A...moving novel about the death of Shakespeare's 11 year old son Hamnet--a name interchangeable with Hamlet in 15th century Britain--and the years leading up to the production of his great play. (2020, 305 pages)



### Leave the world behind: a novel

by Rumaan Alam

Fiction. Sheltering in a New York beach house with a couple that has taken refuge during a massive blackout, a family struggles for information about the power failure while wondering if the cut-off property is actually safe. (2020, 241 pages)



### Be frank with me

by Julia Claiborne Johnson

Fiction. Reluctantly hired into the home of a famed reclusive writer who would recapture her lost fortunes by completing a new manuscript, Alice Whitley becomes obsessed with identifying the paternity of her employer's precocious young son. (2016, 287 pages)

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### Miss Benson's beetle: a novel

by Rachel Joyce

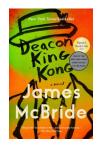
Historical Fiction. Leaving London behind, Margery Benson, a schoolmarm and spinster in 1950, embarks on a quest to the other side of the world in search of her childhood obsession – the golden beetle of New Caledonia – with the help of a fun-loving assistant who changes her life forever. (2020, 353 pages)



### The girl with the louding voice: a novel

by Abi Daré

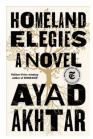
Fiction. Adunni, a 14-year-old Nigerian girl who longs for an education, must find a way for her voice to be heard loud and clear in a world where she and other girls like her are taught to believe, through words and deeds, that they are nothing. (2020, 368 pages)



### **Deacon King Kong**

by James McBride

Fiction. In the aftermath of a 1969 Brooklyn church deacon's public shooting of a local drug dealer, the community's African-American and Latinx witnesses find unexpected support from each other when they are targeted by violent mobsters. (2020,370 pages)

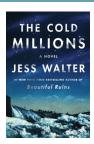


### Homeland elegies: a novel

by Ayad Akhtar

Fiction. "A deeply personal work about identity and belonging in a nation coming apart at the seams, Homeland Elegies blends fact and fiction to tell an epic story of longing and dispossession in the world that 9/11 made. Part family drama, part social essay, part picaresque novel, at its heart it is the story of a father, a son, and the country they both call home" (2020, 345 pages)

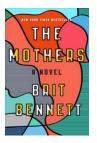
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### The cold millions: a novel

by Jess Walter

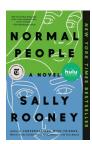
Historical Fiction. Enduring the corruption of their union employment, two young day laborers are respectively drawn to a feminist activist and a vaudeville singer whose experiences reflect an unjust world on the brink of upheaval. (2020, 342 pages)



#### The mothers: a novel

by Brit Bennett

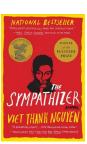
Fiction. In a contemporary black community, 17-year-old Nadia Turner mourns the suicide of her mother, leading her to take up with the local's pastor's son; but when she gets pregnant, the pregnancy and the subsequent cover-up will have an impact that goes far beyond their youth. (2016; 278 pages).



### Normal people: a novel

by Sally Rooney

Fiction. The unconventional secret childhood bond between popular Connell and lonely, intensely private Marianne is tested by character reversals in their first year at a Dublin college that render Connell introspective and Marianne social, but self-destructive. (2019, 273 pages)



### The Sympathizer

by Viet Thanh Nguyen

Fiction. Follows a Viet Cong agent as he spies on a South Vietnamese army general and his compatriots as they start a new life on 1975 Los Angeles. (2015, 371)

## Nonfiction titles -- Evening Book Group 2022 Ballot



### The yellow house

by Sarah M. Broom

Memoir. Describes the author's upbringing in a New Orleans East shotgun house as the unruly 13th child of a widowed mother, tracing a century of family history and the impact of class, race and Hurricane Katrina on her sense of identity. (2019; 376 pages)



### The library book

by Susan Orlean

Nonfiction. The acclaimed best-selling author of Rin Tin Tin and The Orchid Thief reopens the unsolved mystery of the most catastrophic library fire in American history, and delivers a dazzling love letter to a beloved institution—our libraries. (2018, 317 pages)



# I'll be gone in the dark : one woman's obsessive search for the Golden State Killer

by Michelle McNamara

An account of the unsolved Golden State Killer case traces the rapes and murders of dozens of victims and the author's determined efforts to help identify the killer and bring him to justice. (2018, 328 pages)



# Say nothing: a true story of murder and memory in Northern Ireland

by Patrick Radden Keefe

Documents the notorious abduction and murder of Jean McConville in 1972 Belfast, exploring how the case reflected the brutal conflicts of Northern Ireland and their ongoing repercussions. (2019, 441 pages)